

ANGLING DAYS ON SCOTCH LOCHS

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Angling Days on Scotch Lochs by David Hodge 'Yellow Body'

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DAVID HODGE 'YELLOW BODY'

**ANGLING DAYS
ON SCOTCH LOCHS**

ANGLING DAYS ON SCOTCH

LOCHS

By "YELLOW BODY"

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PREFACE.

If any angler opens these pages in the expectation of finding hints or instructions that will prove serviceable on loch or river, he will be disappointed, for the Sketches which follow are simply a narrative (written originally for publication in the columns of the *Dundee Advertiser*) of the experiences of the writer during several short but pleasant holidays spent in summer seasons at angling centres in the Scotch Highlands. For practical advice on the subject of hooks and lines and reels and rods, and all the other paraphernalia of an angler, the reader is referred to the charming little work entitled "Scotch Loch Fishing," by "Black Palmer," published some time ago by Messrs. Blackwood & Son; for information as to all the fishing haunts in broad Scotland, he is recommended to procure the

"Sportsman's Guide," whose author, Mr. Watson Lyall, has placed the angling fraternity of Great Britain under a debt of obligation that can never be repaid; while for eloquent descriptions of scenery, coupled with fascinating accounts of captures in loch and river, he cannot do better than procure a brochure called "Sprigs of Heather," lately issued by the enthusiastic sportsman "May Fly." All these writers touch on the relative merits of loch and river fishing, and one takes occasion to speak of loch fishing as "a second-rate performance." Now, whatever may be said in praise of river fishing, it will not be questioned that for anglers who have reached a certain age, loch fishing is more enjoyable. Picture a fine summer morning, with a light breeze, and a gentle ripple on the water. The angler, after a night of sound and refreshing sleep, has breakfasted, and on the way to the loch has smoked his first pipe—the sweetest of the day. Next only to the supreme bliss of being fast to a heavy fish are the sensations of the angler as he leaves the trap, and tramps down over the sweet-scented heather and dew-laden bracken to the boat, which had been left safely moored

in some snug bay on the night before. No matter how unsuccessful and how full of disappointment the previous day's labours may have been, fresh hopes animate his breast, and he carefully makes up an alluring cast, and enters on his work for a fresh day with a light heart, and a confident expectation that by evening his efforts will be rewarded by a bigger basket than any he has made before. River fishing certainly has its attractions, but these cannot, in the opinion of the writer, be compared with those of the loch. In the pages that follow, many happy days will be found described, and in the hope that brother anglers may by their aid be enabled to pass away what would otherwise prove a dull half-hour—when the fish are slow to move, and not on the rise—this little volume is here left, with much diffidence, by

“YELLOW BODY.”

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LOCH EARN.

THE first Loch angling experiences of the writer were on Loch Earn. In the spring months of 1869, a visit was made to this lovely sheet of water, comfortable quarters being secured at the hostelry of Mr. and Mrs. Davie, which at that time was not a tenth of its present size. Loch-earnhead was the point we fixed upon to reach from St. Fillans, and this involved a pull of eight miles. The 'Rob Roy' was the boat chosen, and the voyage was placed under the guidance of Admiral Mackay, the head boatman of the Loch. Trolling with the natural minnow was then the principal mode of fishing Loch Earn. The operation